

**George Washington to Pennsylvania Council, January 20, 1779, The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.**

**TO PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED AND THE SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Head Quarters, Philadelphia, January 20, 1779.

Gentlemen: The liberal Testimony of approbation which you did me the honour of transmitting by the hands of His Excellency the President, coming from so respectable an Assembly, cannot but make the deepest impression on my mind.<sup>1</sup>

However conscious I am that your generous sensibility attributes infinitely too much to me, my respect for you leads me to acquiesce in your request and gratefully to subscribe myself Gentr. etc.<sup>2</sup>

1he Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, by a resolve (January 18), requested Washington to sit to Charles Willson Peale for a portrait, to be hung in the Council Chamber. 1he painting was executed between Jan. 20 and Feb. 2, 1779, and Peale is said to have made many copies therefrom. 1he Pennsylvania Packet states that the Spanish agent to the United States, Don Juan Miralles, ordered five copies. In September, 1781, vandals broke into the State House at night and slashed this portrait and an engraving of General Montgomery's monument. 1he painting was repaired as well as could be at the time. Peale had made a mezzotint engraving, 14 by 10 inches in size, of it in 1780, and sold copies at \$2 each. Only a few of these have survived, and the frontispiece of this volume is a reproduction of one of them.

2he draft is in the writing of John Laurens.